DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

RELATING TO

THE EXTENSION TO EXISTING AGRICULTURAL BUILDING TO HOUSE NEW PARLOUR, HANDLING AND COLLECTING YARD

AT

BLAKELEY FARM, BLAKELEY LANE, WHISTON, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST10 2HB

ON BEHALF OF

DR & BA COTTON

1. Background

- Blakeley Farm comprises a range of traditional and modern portal frame buildings, being the base of a substantial dairy enterprise.

- The range of agricultural buildings are divided by the minor road which runs through the farm. The main cubicle housing, silage clamps and manure storage is located to the West of the road. To the East is the youngstock buildings.

- DR & BA Cotton farm approximately 283.48 acres (114.722 hectares) with 215.67 acres (87.280 hectares) owned and a further 67.81 acres (27.442 hectares) rented on long term arrangements.

- With the family farming at Blakeley Farm for approximately 61 years, the applicants are well established and have strong connections to the land which they farm.

- Blakeley Farm has evolved over a number of years and adapted to changes in practice in the agricultural sector. Blakeley Farm is now the base of a modern substantial dairy unit with herd genetics and breeding program which exceeds the national average breeding high quality and yielding dairy cows.

- The dairy herd comprises approximately 330 head of stock with 180 cows and heifers within the milking herd and 150 youngstock. The milk produced is under contract with Tesco.

2. Proposed Extension to Existing Livestock Buildings

- Planning permission is sought for an extension to the existing modern range of buildings which houses the milk herd.
- The extension will be used as follows –
    - ✓ to house a new, larger, more efficient milking parlour
    - ✓ improved livestock handling facilities
    - ✓ larger collecting yard
- The materials used for the proposed extension mirror those used on the adjoining building.
- Further details of the external finishes are provided on the submitted plans.

Ian Harvey Fabrications Limited. **5th September 2022**